

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) A fuel cell device, comprising a fuel cell unit including at least two fuel cells ~~which are~~each having an anode and cathode and electrically coupled with one another in a way selected from the group consisting of a series electrical coupling, a parallel electrical coupling, and both, for conversion of chemical energy into an electrical energy; and an electronic control unit for controlling individual fuel cells of said fuel cell unit, wherein a first of said at least two fuel cells is provided with a first catalytic coatings on said anode and said cathode of said first fuel cell and wherein a second of said at least two fuel cells is provided with a second catalytic coatings on said anode and said cathode of said second fuel cell, which are different from said first catalytic coatings on said anode and said cathode of said first fuel cell, and wherein said at least two fuel cells have at least different quantities of the catalytic coatings on said anode and said cathode of said first fuel cell and on said anode and said cathode of said second fuel cell such that a quantity the first catalytic coating on said anode and said cathode of said first fuel cell is different correspondingly from a quantity of the second catalytic coating on said anode and said cathode of said second fuel cell.

2. (previously presented) A fuel cell device as defined in claim 1, wherein said electronic control unit includes at least one control

element for controlling material streams of individual ones of said fuel cells.

3. (previously presented) A fuel cell device as defined in claim 2, wherein said control element is arranged between two of said fuel cells.

4. (Original) A fuel cell device as defined in claim 1, wherein said control element is formed as a control valve.

5. (previously presented) A fuel cell device as defined in claim 1, wherein at least two of said fuel cells are provided with different, maximum electrical powers.

Claims 6-7 cancelled.

8. (Original) A fuel cell device as defined in claim 1; and further comprising at least one pressure generating unit for generating at least two different operational pressures.

9. (Original) A fuel cell device as defined in claim 8, wherein said pressure generating unit includes a high pressure generating element and a low pressure generating element.

10. (Original) A fuel cell device as defined in claim 1, wherein said fuel cell unit is formed so as to provide an operation for supplying current.

11. (Original) A fuel cell device as defined in claim 1, wherein said fuel cell unit is formed so as to provide an operation for supplying heat.

12. (previously presented) A vehicle, comprising a vehicle part; and a fuel cell device, said fuel cell device including a fuel cell unit having at least two fuel cells which are electrically coupled with one another in a way selected from the group consisting of a series electrical coupling, a parallel electrical coupling, and both, for conversion of chemical energy into an electrical energy; and an electronic control unit for controlling individual fuel cells of said fuel cell unit.

13. (previously presented) A method of operating of a fuel cell device, comprising the steps of providing a fuel cell unit having at least two fuel cells for conversion of the chemical energy into electrical energy; electrically coupling said at least two fuel cells by a connection selected from the group consisting of a serial electrical connection, a parallel

electrical connection, and both; and controlling said fuel cell unit by an electronic control unit which controls individual ones of said fuel cells.

14. (Withdrawn) A fuel cell device, comprising a fuel cell unit including at least two fuel cells which are electrically coupled with one another in a way selected from the group consisting of a series electrical coupling, a parallel electrical coupling, and both, for conversion of chemical energy into an electrical energy; and an electronic control unit for controlling individual fuel cells of said fuel cell unit, said at least two fuel cells including a first fuel cell having a higher power and a second fuel cell having a lower power, said first fuel cell having a higher power and being operated both in a partial load region as well as in a full load region, while said second fuel cell having a lower power and being operated in a fuel load region additionally.

15. (Withdrawn) A fuel cell device, comprising a fuel cell unit including at least two fuel cells which are electrically coupled with one another in a way selected from the group consisting of a series electrical coupling, a parallel electrical coupling, and both, for conversion of chemical energy into an electrical energy; and an electronic control unit for controlling individual fuel cells of said fuel cell unit, said fuel cell unit being formed so as to provide an operation for supplying heat so that in a case

of an increased heat consumption said electronic control unit controls a smallest possible fuel cell to produce electrical power.

16. (Withdrawn) A fuel cell device, comprising a fuel cell unit including at least two fuel cells which are electrically coupled with one another in a way selected from the group consisting of a series electrical coupling, a parallel electrical coupling, and both, for conversion of chemical energy into an electrical energy; and an electronic control unit for controlling individual fuel cells of said fuel cell unit, and at least one pressure generating unit for generating at least two different operational pressures, wherein said pressure generating unit includes a high pressure generating element and a low pressure generating element that generate pressure to a same fluid.

17. (currently amended) A fuel cell device, comprising a fuel cell unit including at least two fuel cells ~~which are~~each having an anode and a cathode and electrically coupled with one another in a way selected from the group consisting of a series electrical coupling, a parallel electrical coupling, and both, for conversion of chemical energy into an electrical energy; and an electronic control unit for controlling individual fuel cells of said fuel cell unit, wherein a first of said at least two fuel cells is provided with first catalytic coatings on said anode and said cathode of said first fuel cell and wherein second of said at least two fuel cells is

provided with a second catalytic coatings on said anode and said cathode of said second fuel cell, which are different from said first catalytic coatings on said anode and said cathode of said first fuel cell, and wherein said at least two fuel cells have at least different quantities of the catalytic coatings on said anode and said cathode of said first fuel cell and on said anode and said cathode of said second fuel cell adapted to different loads or operational conditions, so that one of said at least two fuel cells which is operated relatively frequently is provided with a greater quantity of the catalytic coatings on said anode and said cathode of said second fuel cell, while the other of said at least two fuel cells which is operated relatively seldom is provided with a smaller quantity of the catalytic coatings on its anode and cathode such that a quantity the first catalytic coating on said anode and said cathode of said first fuel cell is different correspondingly from a quantity of the second catalytic coating on said anode and said cathode of said second fuel cell.